

AMERICANS FACING WAR

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Once again the citizens of the United States of America are facing the possibility of war. This is not the first time that such has occurred in the history of our nation. All of us realize that from the time of the Revolutionary War, many thousands of Americans have been willing to give their lives for the freedoms we possess as they went off to battle. Certainly, it is expedient for us to focus on the reality, that had our ancestors and friends not fought in the various wars our country faced, we would not have the great society we experience in the United States today. Therefore, we have a moral obligation to be thankful for those who have fought for the liberty we currently enjoy.

But, it appears that another war is before us. With the rising possibility that many of our men and women will be going off to foreign soil to fight for our country, certain questions seem to be looming in front of us everyday. Without a doubt, those questions must be answered if we are to progress as a people and as a nation in maintaining freedom in the world.

Among other questions, three seem to prevail in the minds of many. They include: 1) Is war ever moral? 2) What can we do to develop a proper attitude toward war? 3) How can we go through a prolonged period of war in a positive manner, realizing that war can be a very bad experience?

However, before an attempt is made to answer those questions, it is appropriate to establish a few significant facts. There are no good people who want war and few people who like war. But when the possibility of war is being faced, the most vital fact we all need to have settled in our thinking is how can we make the horrible experience of war bearable. Therefore, answering the above questions may indeed thrust us all toward facing war in a way that will enable us to endure.

IS WAR EVER MORAL?

Countless numbers of people have been asking that very good question ever since the beginning of time. The answer, however, is not really that difficult. So many times war is not moral because the motive is aggressive, selfish, or evil. In the event that any country goes to war just to expand it's borders, to increase it's wealth, or to enhance it's name, that war has a very immoral flavor. However, war may be moral when it is not based on aggression, or approached from the perspective of an evil motive, but when it is based on the attempt to do away with any form of evil activity or any nation or dictator of any nation that has the pattern of bringing oppression upon others.

The war that seems to be impending upon us, therefore, would be considered moral from the perspective of the United States. Observing the situation, we can easily recognize that

the wickedness of men like Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden has brought terror into the lives of millions around the world. These two men alone are personally responsible for the deaths of many individuals in their own nations and around the world, and it appears that they have no intention to cease from their evil activity. Therefore, it is not only appropriate, but it is essential that a nation like the United States of America, which has been established on the basis of moral goodness, do all that it can to purge the world of such evil men and those who would determine to follow them and their wicked philosophy.

It is important to note, that a study of the Bible will reveal that God Himself used war often to destroy the wickedness of an immoral society. An example of such can be seen in the Old Testament book of Numbers, chapter 31, where God commanded Israel to arm themselves for war and to destroy the Midianites because of their evil and immoral activity. Over and over again in the scripture, similar examples can be given where nations were destroyed by other nations at the direction of God because of the evil that those godless countries promoted. Today, the situation is no different. War that has the determination to destroy evil and wickedness is not morally wrong. In fact it is right. It is morally correct and it can even be used of God in a positive way to deter the rapid expansion of evil.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO DEVELOP A PROPER ATTITUDE TOWARD WAR?

This is a very important question from the personal perspective. Many struggle with this question every day, and even though they may realize that war is moral, they still have difficulty facing it because of certain things they have not yet settled in their own thoughts. There are a least five perspectives that must be observed if a proper attitude toward war is to be developed.

The Emotional Perspective: It is important to emotionally approach war with the confidence that the motive is correct and that as a nation we have the ability and strength to succeed in the war against evil in the world.

The Mental Perspective: It is necessary to determine in our own minds that if we go to war as a nation, that every effort must be to do our best in combat, to be in support of those who are involved in all forms of military activity, and to encourage those officials in our government who have the responsibility to make important decisions so that the freedoms we hold dear to us in this country will prevail.

The Spiritual Perspective: It is crucial that we individually and corporately continue in daily prayer and have total trust in God to guide us as individuals and as a nation as we face the long dark days of war.

The Personal Perspective: It is essential that each of us individually determine that we will do all that is possible to support the war in our actions and attitudes.

The Sociological Perspective: It is pertinent for us to realize that if we as a nation do not stand against the wickedness of men like Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden, that their malice will continue to destroy the lives of many in our society and lead us all down the

road to greater discomfort and even to the possible destruction of that which is morally good.

HOW CAN WE GO THROUGH A PROLONGED PERIOD OF WAR IN A POSITIVE MANNER, REALIZING THAT WAR CAN BE A VERY BAD EXPERIENCE?

In order to go through a prolonged period of war, we must focus on the good cause that we are fighting. It has often been said that anything that amounts to much takes a lot of hard work and labor. Such is very true. The possible war that is before us, is a war that has the motive of destroying certain elements of evil and give us all a better society in which to live. We must remember that fact. And, we must focus on the alternative that will occur if we don't fight for the good cause against evil. If we do not fight for that which is good, then evil will continue to spread at a rapid rate that will effect all of us where we are in ways that would be impossible for us to consider at this point.

We must also focus on the positive elements of life that we enjoy now if we are going to endure a prolonged period of war. There is no doubt but that the freedoms we all possess in the United States of America have not come to us at a cheap price. Many gave their lives and shed their blood that we might be free today. We need to appreciate that thought each and everyday we live. The simple point is, because of the previous wars of our nation, we have the good life as Americans today! The United States is far from being perfect. But it is the best nation on the face of the earth because people gave their lives for the good principles upon which it was founded in the past. That is a very positive element for us to focus upon right now. If we do not stand for what is good and right in the present, then the generations that follow us may not have the opportunity to experience the freedom and independence of life that we currently enjoy.

Certainly war is not desired. Undoubtedly every effort should be made to avoid war. That is why we must pray for the leaders of our land and ask God to give them the wisdom, knowledge, courage and strength to make all of the proper decisions that will protect the people of our nation and the many other innocent people of the world. But if we go to war, let's determine to support our leaders, to stand with our military, and to do all that we can to contribute to the cause of standing for good and against evil.